

1-8. (canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

at least one operable device with ~~at least two operating states that may be produced~~are producible or changed~~changeable, independently from each other to be used~~for usage in a vehicle, with an operating panel configured to allow ~~through which a user can~~to cause at least one of producing existing operating states or changing existing operating states of the operable device;

at least one sensor in the vehicle; and

a decision unit, coupled to the operating panel of the operable device, which receives data from said at least one sensor for determining vehicle-specific conditions over a time period of vehicle operation by evaluating the received sensor data and which converts the vehicle-specific conditions into a driving profile indicating an actual driving situation of the vehicle and blocks or releases the existing operating states of the operable device according to whether the actual driving situation is detected to be dangerous or non-dangerous, said detection being made on a basis of the driving profile.

10. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

at least one operable device with ~~at least two operation operating states that may be~~are produced~~producible or changed~~changeable, independently from each othersaid device configured for use~~to be used~~ in a vehicle, with an operating panel configured to allow ~~through which a user can~~to cause at least one of producing existing operating states or changing existing operating states of the operable device;

at least one sensor in the vehicle; and

a decision unit, coupled to the operating panel, which receives driving speed data from said at least one sensor for determining vehicle-specific conditions by measuring fluctuation of the driving speed of the vehicle over a time period and blocks or releases the existing operating states of the operable device based on the measured fluctuation.

11. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the operable device is operable to perform at least one of receiving or transmitting data.

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the operable device is operable to perform at least one of receiving or transmitting data.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, comprising:  
equipment which collects information on at least one of conditions or states under which or by which the operable device is currently being operated, and transmits the information as data to the decision unit.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 10, comprising:  
equipment which collects information on at least one of conditions or states under which or by which the operable device is currently being operated, and transmits the information as data to the decision unit.

15. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, comprising:  
equipment which collects information on at least one of conditions or states under which or by which the operable device is currently being operated, and transmits the information as data to the decision unit.

16. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12, comprising:  
equipment which collects information on at least one of conditions or states under which or by which the operable device is currently being operated, and transmits the information as data to the decision unit.

17. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, comprising:  
a receiving unit; and wherein  
data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 10, comprising:  
a receiving unit; and wherein

data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

19. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, comprising:

a receiving unit; and wherein

data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

20. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12, comprising:

a receiving unit; and wherein

data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

21. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 13, comprising:

a receiving unit; and wherein

data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

22. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 14, comprising:

a receiving unit; and wherein

data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

23. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 15, comprising:

a receiving unit; and wherein

data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

24. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 16, comprising:

a receiving unit; and wherein

data is received by the receiving unit and is transmitted to the decision unit to be used alone or together with other data to control the blocking of the operating states or releasing of the operating states of the operable device.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling ~~at least one an~~ operable device ~~with at least two operating states that may be produced or changed independently from each other,~~ which is used in a vehicle, comprising:

controlling an operating panel by a user to cause at least one of producing existing operating states or changing existing operating states of the operable device;

receiving data from at least one sensor in a decision unit which is coupled to the operating panel;

determining vehicle-specific conditions over a time period of vehicle operation by evaluating the received sensor data;

converting the vehicle-specific conditions into a driving profile indicating an actual driving situation of the vehicle; and

blocking or releasing the existing operating states of the operable device according to whether the actual driving situation is detected to be dangerous or non-dangerous, said detection being made on a basis of the driving profile.

26. (Currently Amended) A decision unit coupled to an operating panel of an operable device with ~~at least two operating states that may be produced~~are producible or changed~~changeable independently from each other,~~ which is used in a vehicle, the decision unit comprising an input for receiving signals from ~~said~~ at least one sensor present in the vehicle;

the decision unit determining vehicle-specific conditions over a time period of vehicle operation by evaluating the received sensor ~~data~~signal and for converting the vehicle-specific

Appl. No.: 09/621,085  
Amdt. dated April 24, 2009  
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2008

conditions into a driving profile indicating an actual driving situation of the vehicle, wherein the decision unit is configured to block or release an existing operating state of the operable device according to whether the actual driving situation is detected to be dangerous or non-dangerous, said detection being made on a basis of the driving profile; and

an output for outputting an output signal, which is used for changing the operating states of the operable device connected to the decision unit.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to be coupled to an operating panel of an operable device ~~in a vehicle with at least two operating states that may be produced~~are producible or changeable~~changed independently from each other~~, the apparatus comprising a decision unit configured ~~to receive~~ for usage in a vehicle, the apparatus comprising an input for receiving driving speed data from at least one sensor present in the vehicle;

the decision unit ~~also~~ configured to determine vehicle-specific conditions by measuring fluctuation of the driving speed of the vehicle over a time period;

wherein the decision unit is ~~further~~ configured to block or release the existing operating states of the operable device based on the measured fluctuation.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:

an output for outputting an output signal, which is used for changing the operating states of the operable device connected to the decision unit.